



Administration Division  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-224-3901  
Fax: 313-224-1464  
www.detroitmi.gov

November 18, 2020

Honorable City Council:

Re: Citywide Traffic Signal Upgrade Contract 6002691- Community Outreach Ordinance  
Engagement Report

The above referenced contract provides for upgrading approximately 200 traffic signals with technology that will include traffic cameras. This contract is required to adhere to the terms of the Community Outreach Ordinance (COO) for a Class A initiative that will be implemented citywide.

Below is a detailed description of the community outreach effort that was led by the Department of Public Works with assistance from the Department of Neighborhoods.

**1. How many meetings have occurred or will occur?**

- Two Citywide virtual meetings were held in accordance with the COO where detailed presentations were given by the Department of Public Works. The first meeting took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the second on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**2. How were people notified or will they be notified?**

**a. Who was notified?**

- The city sent out an electronic notification of the meeting via Gov Delivery to all participating neighborhoods in Detroit on October 30, 2020 and November 2, 2020. The GovDelivery database now includes all local block clubs and entities known to the Department of Neighborhoods.
- The meeting was also noticed on the City of Detroit's Facebook page.
- The meeting notice was broadcast on Channel 10.
- Council and Community Advisory Councils for Districts 4 and 7 were notified via e-mail on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 days in advance of the first meeting. Meeting notices were posted on the City of Detroit's website events calendar including links to the Administrative Department and the Department of Neighborhoods website on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 days in advance of the first meeting.
- Estimated number of recipients of notices and participants:
  - Number of total Gov Delivery emails - **22,927**
  - Number of Zoom Participants on November 16 - **133**
  - Number of Zoom Participants on November 9 - **114**
  - Number of Facebook users views of November 16 - **67**
  - Number of Facebook user views of November 9 - **516**

**3. If a meeting has been held, what concerns were raised by the community?**

- Although attendees seemed to understand and acknowledge that this contract is being implemented as a traffic management tool to more effectively manage traffic at signalized intersections, concerns were raised regarding the potential for the technology to be modified in the future so that the cameras could be used by DPD for surveillance, facial recognition, and the issuance of tickets for running red lights. Primary concerns regarding this project proposal centered around the possible future use of traffic cameras for facial recognition or issuing of tickets.

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- Additionally, concerns were raised around racial justice around use of the cameras with DPD.
- There were also concerns about the overall fear of facial recognition software stalling the progress of technology in the city in other areas that it could greatly benefit city residents and their quality of life.
- Concerns were raised that it is believed that there are not policies or protocols currently in place that would prevent DPD from modifying the technology to allow for facial recognition surveillance.

**4. What is being done to address the concerns of the community?**

- These traffic cameras and associated technology will be used solely for traffic management purposes. They will provide real time notifications when signals malfunction and provide data that will aid in optimizing traffic flow, and making the intersections operate safer. Furthermore, the technology that will be installed does not have the capability to perform the tasks that were listed as concerns by residents. Tasks such as reading license plate numbers and performing facial recognition cannot be accomplished with these cameras or this technology. It would require City Council to approve a separate contract to swap out the technology and cameras that are included in this contract.
- In regards to racial justice and the use of these cameras, the image resolution offered on the cameras cannot identify race or sex of individuals that come into the frame. The images will be consistent with those that we see daily on local news stations that are showing traffic conditions and congestion on freeways.

We have also attached a copy of the power point presentation that was given during the November 9<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> citywide community meetings.

It is my hope that your Honorable Body determines that the actions taken by DPW and the Department of Neighborhoods are in alignment with the objectives and requirements of the Community Outreach Ordinance. In the event that additional information is needed, or if you have additional questions, we are available at your convenience to respond.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Brundidge  
Director, Department of Public Works

Cc: Hakim Berry, COO  
Lawrence Garcia, Corporation Council  
Avery Peeples, Mayor's Office  
Oladayo Akinyemi, DPW  
Caitlin Marcon, DPW  
Raymond Solomon, DON  
Sunny Jacob, DPW

Attachment

MICHAEL DUGGAN, MAYOR